

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E O 11652, N/A

TAGS: OTRA, MILI, PINS, PFOR

SUBJECT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TRAVEL PLANS

1. MR. ABDUL KOHAR RONY, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SE ASIA SPECIALIST, HAS INQUIRED REGARDING PROPOSED TRIP TO PHILIPPINES FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8.

2. RONY WOULD BE SEEKING INFORMATION AND PUBLISHED MATERIALS ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. GENERAL PHILIPPINE FOREIGN RELATIONS;

B. ETHNIC RELATIONS WITHIN PHILIPPINES, PARTICULARLY STATUS OF CHINESE AND MUSLIMS; AND

C. INFO RE PHILIPPINE MILITARY FORCES, INCLUDING DIRECTORIES OF OFFICERS, BIO INFO, INDOCTRINATION PROCEDURES, CIVIC ACTION, AND MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN GOVT AND SOCIAL SPHERES.

3. RONY WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT COL. PRIMITIVO C. MILAN,
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CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY, AFP, AND COL. CESAR POBRE,

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY. HE HAD MET THESE OFFICERS DURING THEIR VISITS TO U.S.. HE ALSO INDICATED ACQUAINTANCE WITH MEL CHURCHILL OF EMBASSY STAFF.

4. DEPTOFF TOLD RONY THAT SEVERAL OF HIS TOPICS SEEMED SENSITIVE, AND HIS INTEREST IN THEM MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY PHILIPPINE GOVT. ALSO HIS PROPOSED DIRECT CONTACT WITH PHILIPPINE MILITARY OFFICERS SEEMED BEYOND NORMAL PUBLICATION PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REPS. SINCE CURRENT MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS INCREASED SENSITIVITY OF U.S./PHIL RELATIONS, WE WOULD WISH EMBASSY MANILA'S VIEWS ON PROPOSED TRAVEL. ALSO, DEPTOFF EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR RONY TO TRAVEL TO AREAS OF MUSLIM INSURGENCY OR TO HAVE CONTACT WITH INSURGENT LEADERS, BOTH MATTERS WHICH RONY HAD SUGGESTED AS IN AREA OF INTEREST.

5. MANILA PLEASE COMMENT ON APPROPRIATENESS OF VISIT, PARTICULARLY SUBJECTS WHICH RONY WOULD LIKE TO GET INTO AND DEGREE OF CONTACT WITH PHILIPPINE NATIONALS WHICH MAY BE APPROPRIATE IN HIS CASE. DOES EMBASSY WISH TO INDICATE A SPECIFIC OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH RONY SHOULD HIS VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES TAKE PLACE?

6. JAKARTA: PLEASE SUMMARIZE PREVAILING GUIDELINES FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REP THERE. BEGIN FYI: RONY IMPLIED THAT PROGRAM HE ENVISAGES FOR THE PHILIPPINES FOLLOWS THE PREVAILING PATTERN OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REP IN INDONESIA. END FYI. KISSINGER

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